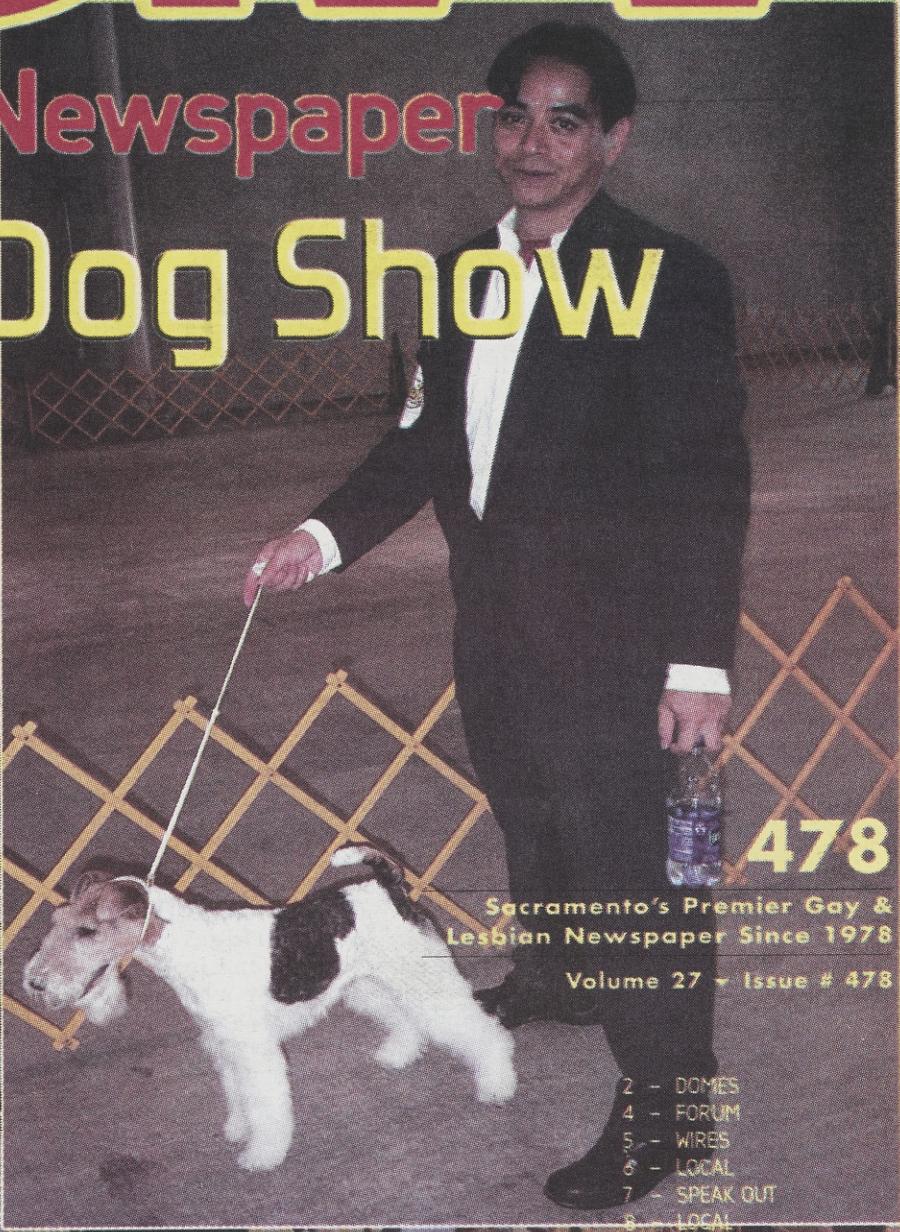


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Mom Guess What Newspaper

Going to the Dog Show



Sacramento's Premier Gay & Lesbian Newspaper Since 1978

Volume 27 • Issue # 478

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Photo: Photo: Photo: Photo

MGN

478 MOM GUESS WHAT NEWSPAPER April 15, 2004

Lambda Awards Honor Activists From All Cultures

By Maggie Bowen
MGW Staff

A cheerful vibrancy emanates from every nook and cranny of the too small, aging Victorian that the Lambda Community Center calls home. It is a place where busy staff members and eager volunteers keep up a frenetic pace.

And nowhere is this vibrancy more apparent than in Lambda Awards Co-Chairs, Jason Kirkland and Gina Ell.

Kirkland is a large catlike man who is as graceful on his feet as he is charming in his manner. He is also the Volunteer Co-ordinator for the Center. His Co-Chair, Gina Ell is equally delightful. She is a new Lambda board member, who brought the Gay-Straight alliance to Lambda and has stayed on to help with events and grant-writing.

Though this is the 11th year that the Lambda Awards have been presented, it is the first time that the event has been held as a semi-formal sit down dinner at a hotel.

According to Kirkland, Marghe Covino started the awards as a way to honor activists and to build bridges in the community. Then three years ago, Gayel Von took it up a notch. This years Kirkland and Ell are ratcheting it up again.

Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Sponsorship tables for ten are also available.

Both chairs hasten to point out that not only is a ticket ten dollars cheaper in advance, but it also guarantees that you will have a choice of meals. At the door the only choice will be chicken. In advance one may specify broiled salmon or a vegetarian meal.

Kirkland said, "We are about halfway to our goal. We would really like to have all the tickets sold in advance, so we can devote our energies to setting up the silent auction, which will be held as part of the fundraising event."

The Awards are being held on Monday, May 3 from 6pm to 9pm at the DoubleTree Hotel across from the Arden Fair Mall.

Tickets are only available at the Lambda Center or through the website. Kirkland says that with the Center open 71 hours a week now and until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, it is really easy to get a ticket.

The theme this year is "Global Diversity." The Awards will recognize all different types of cultures.

There are 12 different awards given.



The Youth Community Award honors a youth who shows the ability to make changes in the community.

The Most Improved Youth Award goes to a youth who has shown a positive change during the previous 12 months.

The Volunteer of the Year Award goes to someone who has given tirelessly of themselves during the last 12 months and has at least three months of consecutive service.

The Building Bridges Award goes to someone in the straight community who has done something to bridge the gap between the gay and straight community. Excitedly, Ell pointed out that "San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom is a good example of a positive bridge builder, and," she says in a whisper, "He's been invited and we hope he can attend!"

The Profiles in Courage Award will be presented to someone who stood up for the GLBT community in a non-friendly environment.

The Fighting AIDS Award will recognize someone who raises money and awareness because they recognize that the battle has not been won.

The Bayard Rustin Award



Gina Ell and Jason Kirkland, Co-chairs of the Lambda Awards with Hex Weathers and Marc Duva, two of the dozen volunteers who are staffing the event.

MGW Photo/Maggie Bowen

will go to an African American who promotes tolerance and understanding for all people.

The William Knudsen Award will recognize philanthropic gestures to the GLBT community.

The Community Backbone Award will go to an organization or individual who supports and attends every community event.

The Arts and Culture Award will honor an arts supporter who understands and promotes the value of the arts in society.

The Jerry Sloan Founders Award will be given to a new organization that steps up to support the community.

The Timothy Warford Award, named for a founder who lost his battle with AIDS is the highest award according to Kirkland and, "is given to the activist who lends support in every form, including money and doesn't shut up in the face of adversity."

"There will also be a new surprise honorary award," said Ell, "but we can't tell you any more about it!"

When asked why he thought the awards are important, Kirkland said, "You need to honor the people who support you all year round. they are the light that

shines on other people and gets them involved. You have to recognize people who are helping. Lambda is proud of these people and the support and help they give."

Kirkland continued, "I would be remiss if I don't mention the 12 volunteers who are helping with the awards. They are: Denise Hedrick, Amy Kirkland, Kelly McAlister, Hex Weathers, Marc Duva, Rusty Mendez, Jade Lawton, Serena Wong, Vay Van, Keith McCormick, Rebecca Sanders and Joseph Ramirez."

In closing, Ell said, "We have confirmed attendance from Channel 10's Darla Givens, Mayor Fargo and other local celebrities, but it would mean even more if those we serve would come celebrate with us" ▼

Info: www.lambdasac.org



MGW Photo/Maggie Bowen

Board
President, Bill Snyder, new Board Member Gina L. and Executive Director Robert Brodie are three of the hardworking folks who keep Lambda operating.

Freedom Fair Planning Meeting

The Freedom Fair is scheduled for June 5, but the planning is going on right now. If you want to be part of the planning, then attend the next meeting at Lambda on Saturday April 17 at 1pm.

The entertainment director for this year's Fair is

Jammin Jo Tierney who will be booking all the events. The Freedom Fair will be held at Southside Park and will have permission to use the pool there.

Vendors should book their spaces as soon as possible to make sure that they will be included. ▼

SPRING 2004

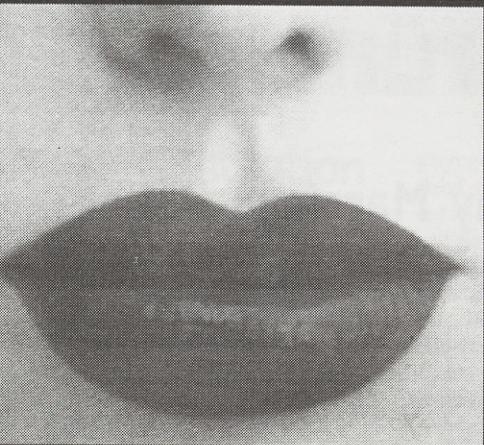
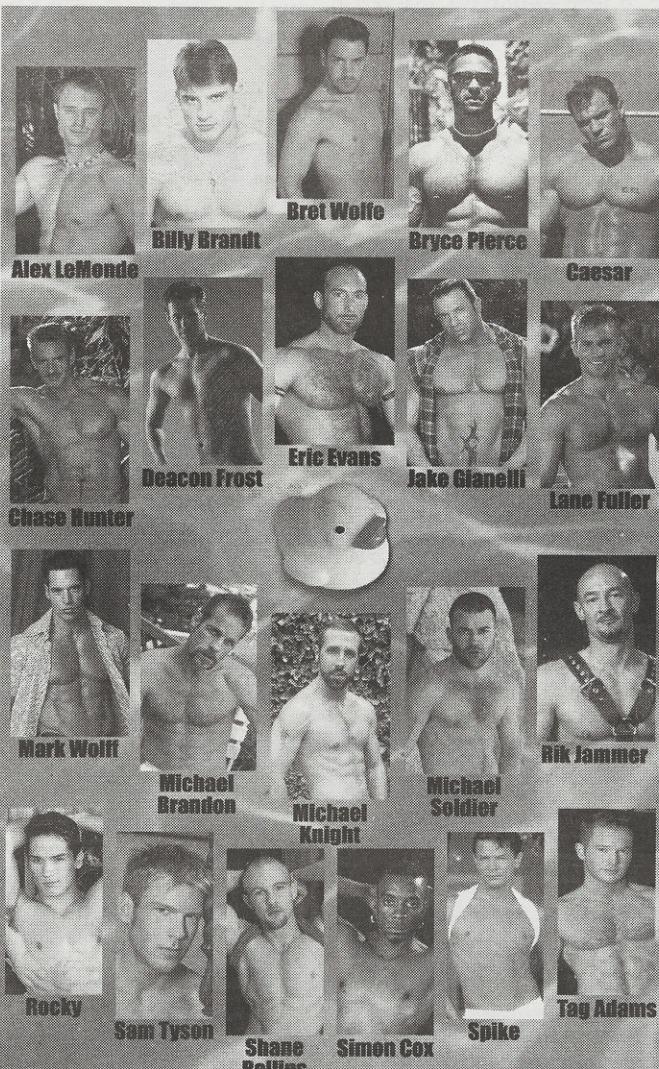
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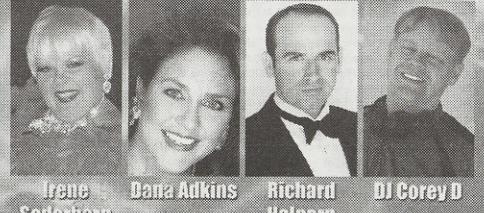
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BULK MAIL - \$30/YEAR FIRST CLASS - \$61/YEAR
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Forum



MGW readers are interested in what you have to say! For verification, letters to the Editor must include a signature, printed name, address and phone number. Names can be withheld if requested. MGW reserves the right to edit for brevity, content and slander. See staff box at left for mailing and contact information.

Opinions published on this page do not necessarily reflect those of MGW.

Vote for Gay Marriage Online

Dear Editor,

Please take time to vote on the USA Today's website. They are taking a poll to see how America feels about a ban against gay marriages. So far the results say congress should ban gay marriages. It only takes a moment to click a vote..blessings!

Please pass this on to others!

Go to this site to vote:

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2004-02-24-gay-marriage-survey.htm>

Randy Hartley
Sacramento

History Made At The Four Freedoms Award Dinner

Dear Editor,

Praise and appreciation are my foremost thoughts following my attendance at the For Freedoms Award Dinner on Saturday evening. The event was history in the making. Throughout the evening, the affair was charged with emotions.

Please accept my sincere praise for ALL those of helped create such an extraordinary event! Also, special appreciation goes to **Marghe Covino** (Lambda Community Center) for supporting the Rainbow Chamber by having the RCC name shown on our table. **Dan Roth** (President Stonewall Democratic Club) graciously acknowledged the presence of the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce during the event.

A number of RCC members sponsored their own tables!

In addition, **Larry Lauszus** (Photography by Larry) has a gallery of photos during the event for viewing. Please visit www.1-800-916-foto.com and view history.

Sincerely,
David Larson
President RCC

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Linda Birner	441-6397
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A REMINDER If you have an issue with the Sacramento Police Department, there is a group of SPD officers and civilians that volunteer to help facilitate better communications between the GLBT community and the SPD. Please call them with your concerns.	

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Sacramento Valley Leathermen Website Is Back Up And Running

Dear Editor:

The Sacramento Valley Leathermen's website www.svlclub.org or www.geocities.com/svl_club is back to full operation after a few months of technical difficulties.

Please visit the site to learn what SVL is doing. You can also call our information and event phoneline at 916-486-5500. The phoneline is updated monthly or as events need and it is checked daily. Should you have any suggestions for additions to the website, please email us at svl_club@yahoo.com. Also please feel free to put a link on your websites to the SVL page.

Best wishes,

Dave Shorey

Vice President

Sacramento Valley Leathermen

Plant Sales Cancelled

Dear Editor:

Please remove the Benefit Plant Sales scheduled for June 26th (Summer) and October 2nd (Fall) at Parking lot 8 from your schedules, they have been cancelled.

My declining cell counts and energy level made me decide that doing such large sales was simply too much and a current case of PCP (AIDS related pneumonia) has just emphasised it - the Spring sale April 24/25 WILL occur, but the other BIG sales for the year are cancelled.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Hamm,
Benefit Plant Sales

Inside MGW

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See more 'Show Dogs' on Page 10



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SACRAMENTO'S PREMIERE GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1978

VOLUME 27 ▼ ISSUE # 478

April 15, 2004

Out Correcting...

MGW Newspaper would like to acknowledge errors promptly. Corrections will appear on page two in each issue. Mistakes can be reported by contacting:

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1103 T Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Health Committee Passes Insurance Equality Act, AB 2208 Sponsored by Equality California

The California State Assembly Health Committee passed AB 2208 by Assemblymember Christine Kehoe (San Diego) on an 11-4 vote. This bill, sponsored by Equality California and Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, will amend the Insurance and the Health & Safety Codes to prohibit insurance providers from issuing policies or plans – including health, life, auto, renters and homeowners insurance, among others – that discriminate against registered domestic partners.

"This legislation is essential to lesbian and gay couples so they can insure themselves and their children without the financial penalty they are forced to pay because they are prohibited from marrying," stated Geoffrey Kors, Executive Director of Equality California.

AB 2208 now heads to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a hearing on April 20 at 9am. ▼

Transgender, Families Gear Up to Lobby on Capitol Hill

Transgender activists from all over America will converge on Capitol Hill, April 29-30 to lobby Congress for transgender inclusion in, and passage of hate crimes and employment rights legislation. Lobby Days 2004 is sponsored by the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), the country's largest and most active organization advocating for the rights of transgender Americans at federal, state, and local levels.

Among those in attendance will be victims of anti-transgender hate crimes and family members of those who have been victims.

"If we come out in numbers, and [congress members] see that, maybe they'll think twice before trying to take our rights away," said Ethan St. Pierre, NTAC board member and Lobby Days co-organizer, "Our country shouldn't stand for this kind of treatment."

Those planning to attend NTAC Lobby Days are requested to register at the NTAC website www.ntac.org ▼

info: www.ntac.org

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Administration Targets Federal Employees, Removes Protections for Sexual Orientation

Recently, one of Scott Bloch's first acts as newly appointed Special Counsel to the White House was to instill fear in 'homosexual' employees of the federal government. In an increasingly common curtailment of individual rights, the Bush Administration has removed decades-long protections from employment discrimination against those who serve our nation.

Bloch's expressed rationale for removing protections for gays and lesbians is that "sexual orientation isn't protected from discrimination or hate crimes by current civil rights laws." Presumably, crossdressers, transsexuals and intersex government employees are also at risk since gender-identity and expression have never been explicitly covered.

Not satisfied with continuing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" discrimination in the nation's armed forces, Bush and his Special Counsel have decided that GLBT federal civilian em-

ployees have no recourse if fired simply for their sexual orientation.

The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) website includes 12 practices prohibited in accordance with the Civil Service Reform Act (CSRA) of 1978. Among these prohibitions is discrimination based on personal conduct that is not adverse to the on-the-job performance of an employee, applicant, or others. The OSC and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) long interpreted this to include sexual orientation.

In a statement issued March 31, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) issued a statement blasting Bloch. "The actions of Special Counsel Scott Bloch are not only needlessly divisive, they are simply wrong as a matter of law." She added, "Mr. Bloch's willingness to tolerate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is contrary to federal law." ▼

Info: www.ntac.org

or members of Congress. Incredibly, the FEC has just issued -- for public comment -- proposed rules that would do just that. Any kind of non-profit -- conservative, progressive, labor, religious, secular, social service, charitable, educational, civic participation, issue-oriented, large, and small -- could be affected by these rules.

By the way, one thing FEC's proposed rules do not affect is the donations you may have made in the past or may make now. They are aimed at activist non-profit groups, not donors.

Operatives in Washington are displaying a terrifying disregard for the values of free speech and openness which underlie democracy. Essentially, they are willing to pay any price to stop criticism of Bush administration policy. ▼

Info:
www.fec.gov/press/press2004/20040312rulemaking.html

Republicans Trying to Gag Nonprofits

The Republican National Committee is pressing the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") to issue new rules that would cripple groups that dare to communicate with the public in any way critical of President Bush

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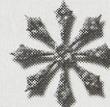
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In Honor Of Gary Matson and Winfield Mowder: A Time of Remembrance

On Friday May 21 at Shabbat services, Congregation B'Nai Israel will honor the memories of **Gary Matson** and **Winfield Mowder**, murdered in 1999 in their Redding home because they lived openly as a gay couple.

They were shot as they were sleeping by the same men who, two weeks earlier, had fire-bombed the B'nai Israel temple and had set fire to Keneset Israel Torah Center and Congregation Beth Shalom. Those men committed the acts of arson because of their hatred toward Jews, just as they committed the murders because of their intolerance of gays.

In these events the Jewish Community of Sacramento and the families and friends of Gary Matson and Winfield Mowder are forever bound together. By remembering their lives we the community touches this connection and expresses solidarity with those who loved and respected them.

Though the murders occurred more than four years

ago, the prosecution did not conclude until March 2003. In the spirit of tikkun olam (repair the world), it is time for the congregation to reach out to these families who have suffered so grievously. Several members of the Matson and Mowder families will be joining us at this service.

Any who wish to attend are invited to join in this remembrance are invited to attend the Shabbat services, which will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Temple B'Nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento.

Chronology:

June 18, 1999: Congregation B'nai Israel, Knesset Israel Torah Center, and Congregation Beth Shalom were fire-bombed within 45 minutes of each other in the early morning hours.

July 1, 1999: **Gary Matson**, age 50, and **Winfield Mowder**, age 40, were shot to death as they slept in their bed. Just the evening before, they had dinner in Redding with Gary's father and one of his three brothers. Family members immediately suspected that it was a hate crime.

July 2, 1999: A Sacramento medical center that housed an abortion clinic was fire-bombed.

July 7, 1999: **Benjamin Matthew Williams**, age 31, and his brother **James Tyler Williams**, age 29, were ar-

rested for the double murders. They were soon linked to the synagogue and abortion clinic arsons.

March 17, 2000: A Sacramento federal grand jury charged the Williams brothers with the arsons.

September 7, 2001: The Williams brothers pleaded guilty in Sacramento federal court to the arsons. Matthew Williams was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment, and Tyler Williams to 21 years.

November 17, 2002: Matthew Williams committed suicide in the Shasta County jail awaiting his murder trial.

February 28, 2003: Tyler Williams pleaded guilty to the double murder charges. On March 28, 2003, he was sentenced to 29 years to life. He is now serving the murder sentence, after which he will serve the arson sentence.

April 20, 2003: **Marcia Howe**, the ex-wife of Gary Matson, died in Davis, California from pulmonary disease. Surviving Marcia and Gary, as well as Winfield, is their college daughter. ▼

Sacramento PFLAG Follansbee Scholarship Deadline 5/01

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a national organization of approximately 250,000 families organized in 500 chapters across the United States. It is a family-based organization of caring people from all walks of life working together for the benefit of the GLBT communities.

The Sacramento Chapter of PFLAG is pleased to be able to offer one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior in the Sacramento area. The scholarship is named in honor of **The Rev. and Mrs. Merrill Follansbee**, chapter founders and proud parents of a gay son.

In order to be eligible for these funds, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a graduating high school senior
- Self identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender
- Demonstrate an interest in service to the GLBT community
- Have applied to an accredited higher education institution in pursuit of either an Associate's degree leading to transfer credits towards a Bachelor's degree, or a Bachelor's degree program at a four-year college

You must provide the following documents:

- Completed Scholarship Application Form
- Unofficial copy of your High School transcript showing a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5
- Two letters of recommendation of which at least one should testify to your GLBT status
- An essay on the topic "What Equal Rights for the GLBT Community Means to Me". Essays are to be typed, 12 point with one-inch margins and no more than two pages in length.

You must send your application packet to the Sacramento PFLAG Chapter Vice President at the following address postmarked no later than May 1, 2004.

Audrey Barth
5820 Mark Twain Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95820 ▼

Celebrating GSAs – Free To Be Me!

In partnership with PFLAG and GLSEN, the Gay Straight Alliance Sacramento Leadership Committee presents a GSA DANCE.

- Date: Saturday, April 24, 2004
- Time: 8 – 11:30 pm
- Place: Hiram Johnson High School Cafeteria
- Cost: \$5

For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and straight allies; GSA members or those who support the GSA movement.

High school students 18 and under – ID required

Dress appropriately for a chaperoned high school dance. The Sacramento Leadership Committee reserves the right to deny entry to any person who does not follow basic standards of dress and safety per normal school procedures.

Security will be provided by the administration of Hiram Johnson High School; supervision and chaperones by credentialed teachers/advisors of the various GSAs in attendance. This will be a FUN and SAFE environment for all. ▼

Info: sacleadershipcommittee@hotmail.com

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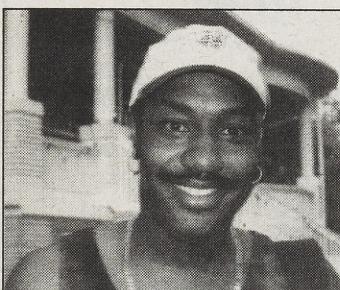
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By Ed Kelley

Do You Participate in Lent or Easter Observance?

Asked in Midtown



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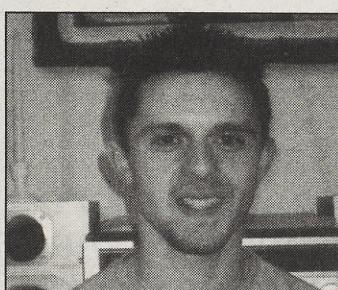
Yes, I celebrate Easter. I like to decorate the house and prepare Easter baskets for friends and family. My friends and I have a cool potluck and enjoy wine, food and good company.



Billy Ray

Sacramento

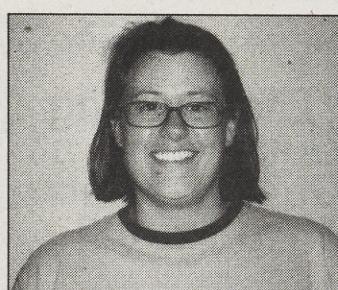
I participate in Easter because that's how I was raised. Our family dinner on Easter Sunday is our traditional way of observance. Our favorite meal is fried chicken and mashed potatoes.



Robert Long

Sacramento
"Mr. Bojangles"

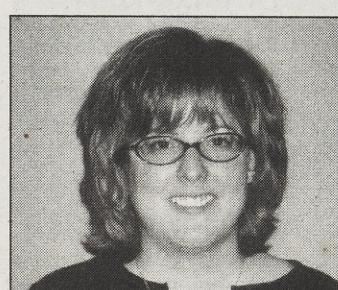
Yes, every Easter we travel to my aunt's house in Berkeley. I hide the Easter eggs and we go to the park to let the children play and have a picnic. My family means everything to me.



Holly Reason

Sacramento
Student

No Lent or Easter observance for us! We are Jewish and do not believe. Chocolate Easter eggs are however the way to any woman's heart! We love Thanksgiving!



Lora Tabor

Sacramento
Human Resources

I participate in Easter observance. I ask my girlfriend to color eggs and hide them in the backyard. We go to Easter service and the church potluck.



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The Canterbury Inn. Mention CGNIE Coronation to get the discounted rate. ▼

Info: www.CGNIE.com

"The Coming Out Party" at Geery Theatre Thru May 1

Lambda Players presents its latest production; the off-the-wall camp comedy The Coming Out Party by John Michael Caffey. In the tradition of Pygmalion and My Fair Lady, The Coming Out Party follows the transformation of a young college student (Marc Koenigsberg) from super dud to super stud with the help of gay mentors Calvin (Thomas Bach) and Sidney (David Wararness) and a cast of truly campy characters. Set in the 1970s, audiences won't be able to resist "GiGi 1977." Directed by

Matthew Burlingame. This play contains brief nudity.

The W.M. Geery Theatre is located at 2130 L Street, Downtown Sacramento. ▼

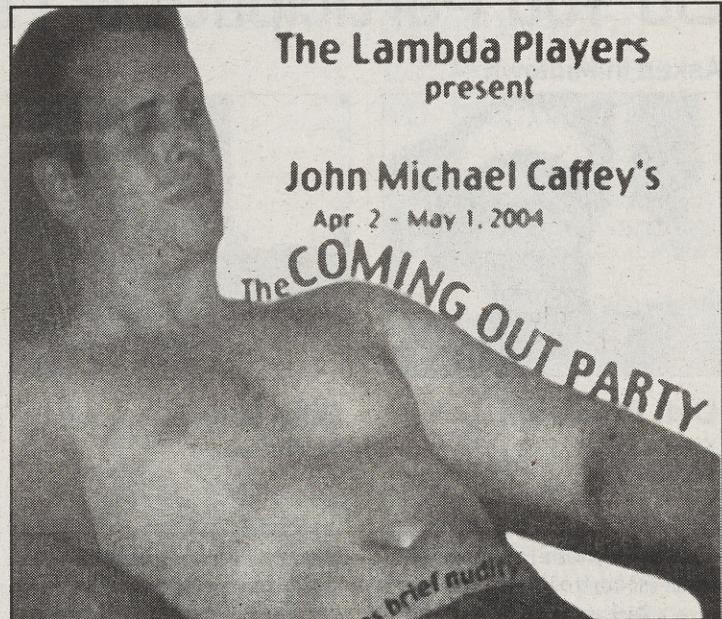
Info: lambdaplayers.com

Gay and Lesbians Are Showing Their Opposition to the Federal Marriage Amendment Act by Wearing "Same Love, Same Rights" Lapel Pin.

The Lapel Pins are being ordered in record numbers and are being worn worldwide by gay, lesbian, straight, married, and single people to show their opposition to a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

The grass-roots campaign known as Same Love, Same Rights was organized in 2003, simply to spread the ideals of equality in marriage for all.

In response to the voices of new legislation and new political and cultural dialogue, "Same Love, Same Rights"



The Lambda Players present

John Michael Caffey's
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The COMING OUT PARTY

transgendered citizens of the US; ten percent will be donated to other non-profit organizations also striving to insure this right. ▼

Info: www.SameLoveSameRights.com

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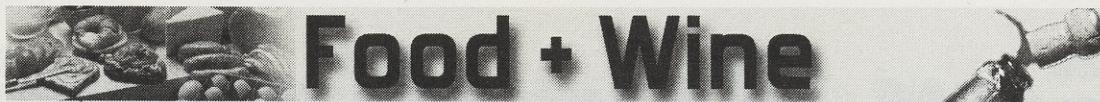
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On An Ice Cream Bender with the Closet Gourmet

By MGW Staff

It's been a grim two weeks for the Gourmet. What with Uncle Sam wanting his pound of flesh and waiting for paychecks that never come, the Gourmet has been forced to eat leftovers and fast food. Even my usually generous friends have not had time for lunch lately.

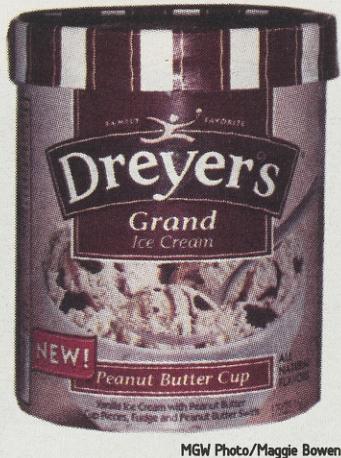
As a result, I only have hearsay for my restaurant report. Firstly, I've been dying to try out **Sammie Chu's** because of all the hoopla surrounding its opening. Unfortunately every time I make a date to go there, it falls through. Karma does not seem to be in the Gourmet's. Still, one of my friends went there with her very elderly parents. She reported that it was OK, but she didn't see what all the hype was about.

Of course she could have been down playing the restaurant because she could see that the Gourmet was a little miffed at not being included in the party, though truthfully old people can be tiring, especially when they are over 40!

I also want to try the **Cafe Melange**, which I have heard wonderful things about, but have not had an opportunity to sample the cuisine there either. I passed there on my way to Scrabble Saturday night and it looked like it had a good crowd. That's a good sign for any restaurant these days! It means the food must be good and that it's priced right!

Any way, since the weather is getting hot and ice cream eating season is upon us, I decided to ask my Scrabble playing pal if he would let me share his famous ice cream dish recipe, "Big B's Chunky Milkshake Float," with my readers.

He graciously consented after we dueled three feverish



Dryers is a good choice for Big B's Chunky Milkshake Float

hours over a Scrabble board. We were feeling no pain after devouring much of the ice cream that he had stocked in the refrigerator earlier in the day, giving new meaning to the terms "sugar buzz" and "head rush."

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soothing as ice cream and even the eventual "ice cream hangover" (even the one over my belt) is not enough to make me feel guilty while ice cream is sliding down my throat.

Here's the recipe. The Gourmet hopes you enjoy it as much as we two rabid Scrabble players do.

Big B's Chunky Milkshake Float

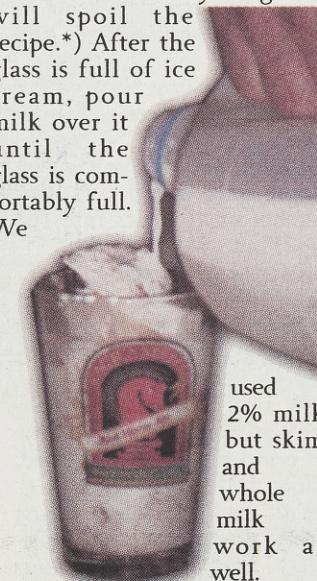
Ingredients:
Ice Cream
Milk



MGW Photo/Maggie Bowen

Utensils
Glass
Eating spoon
Large spoon or ice cream scoop

Fill glass with ice cream, preferably a chunky one like Bryers "Banana Fudge Chunk" or (Dreyers Peanut Butter Cup.) (Big B insists that these are the only brands to use and that anything else will spoil the recipe.) After the glass is full of ice cream, pour milk over it until the glass is comfortably full. We



used
2% milk
but skim
and
whole
milk
work as
well.



MGW Photo/Maggie Bowen

Breyers is the Gourmet's favorite.

Be careful not to over pour the milk or you may have an overflow when you put in the spoon.

Now add the spoon and enjoy.

All that's left is to enjoy, which is what Big B and I did after we battled to a 1-1 tie. I can hardly wait to find out what new secrets he will divulge the next time we play Scrabble and experiment with heady mixtures of exotic ice creams.

**Editor's Note: that's what my old Gran says about Crisco and fried chicken! ▼*

Send suggestions or luncheon invitations to editor@mgwnews.com. Please put "Gourmet" in the subject line.

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Big Day For Sacramento

by Maggie Bowen
MGW Staff

Dog lovers turned out in record numbers to watch more than 150 American Kennel Club (AKC) recognized purebreds strut their stuff at the annual Sacramento Kennel Club Dog Show at Cal Expo, held April 8-11.

The Terrier Club had its yearly specialty show, and so did the Briard Club of Northern California, which was started 30 years ago by local realtor, **Donavon Thompson** (photo #1). Thompson said that his "love affair with the Briard began in 1972 and is still going strong."

Thompson's interest in dogs led him down a rigorous path of study that resulted in his becoming eligible to judge dogs in the ring. Thompson says that his "hobby has resulted in a second career that I love as much as my first."

Thompson has judged shows as far away as Sydney, Australia, Taiwan and Nova Scotia.

Deb Morrow, who came up from Southern California to show her dogs is also a respected breeder. Photo #13. She said, "My dog spends so much time on her back legs, I ought to buy her a tutu."

The Briard Club offered several impressive trophies and ribbons (photo #14) for the winners in numerous categories that ultimately result in one dog being chosen "Best of Breed," the highest award in the specialty show. This is followed by "Best in Group" and eventually "Best in Show," the ultimate dream of every dog hobbyist.

Though the moments preceding the actual competition were tense and frantic with last minute grooming and show ring jitters, the atmosphere was more like party and the enthusiasts treated the event as a good excuse to get together, enjoy their dogs, each other's company and talk about dogs. ▼

Vendors lined the walls, displaying all things dog. There were booths selling high quality dog food, books,

T-shirts, toys, beds and anything else that could possibly appeal to a dog lover. (Photo #16).

A Giant Schnauzer picked out his own his own toy (Photo #15) at one of the booths, but his owner pays!

Dogs and handlers came in many sizes, shapes, ages and genders.

A preteen boy showed his Parson Russell Terrier (photo #5).

A Maltese is given a last minute once over by its handler before it floats into the ring (Photo #4).

A little girl leads a large Briard (photo #12).

A proud Bichon Frise with his owner (Photo #3).

Boxers parade around the show ring with many spectators watching and waiting for the winner to be determined. (Photo #2).

A Giant Pyrenees gets last minute grooming (Photo #6).

Joy Forgoda of Davis brought her new Bull Terrier to the show to help it get socialized (Photo #11).

A three-month old Whippet puppy gets a chance to get used to a crowd of people and dogs (Photo #10).

An American Staffordshire Terrier is all set to go in the ring with his nattily attired handler (Photo #9).

A Schnauzer show that he is ready to stand still for the judge (Photo #17).

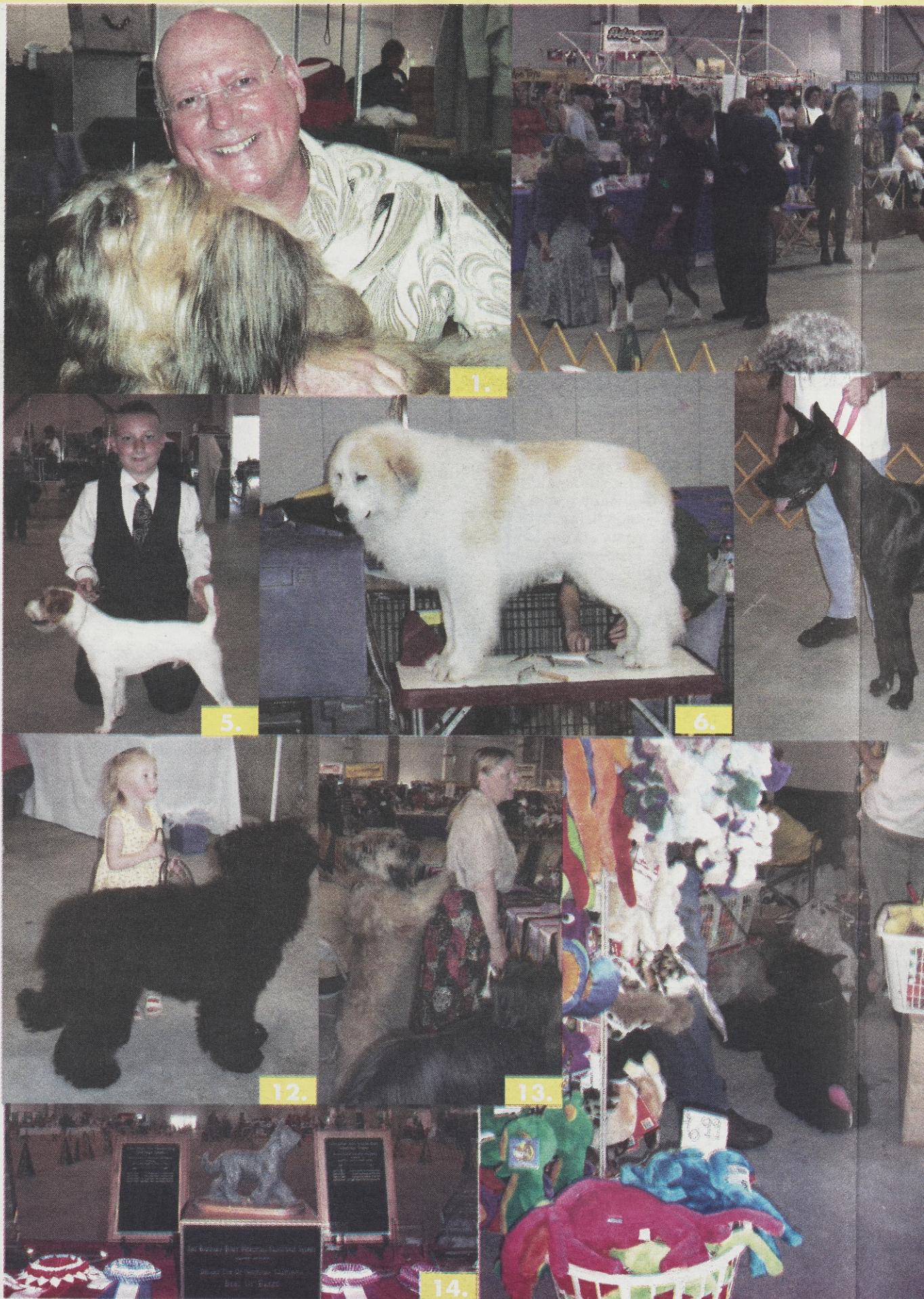
The form it takes to win "Best of Breed" is shown by this cute Scotty (Photo #8).

A Great Dane Puppy (Photo #7) and its owner wondering if "Anybody's seen the cartoon dog, Marmaduke around!"

In addition to conformation judging, that is comparing the dog's characteristics to those described in the breed's standard, the Dog Show also offers titles in Obedience and Agility. Even dogs that are not considered suitable for showing, can perform well and win titles in these trials. ▼

Info: akc.com

MGW Photos #4, #11 and #17/Linda Birner
All Other MGW Photo/Maggie Bowen



to Dog Fanciers



American Ugly

by Stefan Gruenwedel
MGW Staff

A middle-class youth living in suburbia kills a neighborhood kid for no apparent reason. While parents and friends grieve, a lingering question remains: Why did he do it?

Matthew Ryan Hoge's feature debut, *The United States of Leland*, which he wrote and directed, explores this interesting topic in a mature way that juxtaposes adolescent hopelessness and suburban ennui with morally ambiguous adult behavior.

Ryan Gosling plays Leland Fitzgerald, an intelligent but emotionally distant teenager who finds it hard to express affection for others because he gets so little of it from his

parents.

When he lands in jail after killing a retarded boy, the juvenile hall teacher, Pearl (Don Cheadle), becomes intrigued by the reasons why this man with so much promise would decide to take such a violent turn so suddenly.

Pearl secretly encourages Leland to keep a journal and write about whatever is on his mind. As it turns out, Pearl is a struggling writer who spies an opportunity to write about Leland and perhaps make a name for himself while coincidentally hoping to shed light on the reasons for the crime.

Leland, skeptical of Pearl's interest, remains vague about his reasons. His are not concrete but very much dependent on some naive assertions about life and the value of living. It is hard to know whether Leland intentionally stymies Pearl or whether he really does not know why he did what he did. The hint is clear, however: There may not be an answer that people can easily accept, wrap up, and store in their compartmentalized minds.

As the narrator, Leland pro-

vides the authoritative commentary in *The United States of Leland*. Considering where fate takes him, it's an interesting point of view to convey throughout the work.

Pearl's investigation becomes complicated when he learns that

Leland recently dated the victim's sister, Becky (Jena Malone), and that his emotionally stunted, acid-tongued father (Kevin Spacey) is a well-known author, whose books Pearl greatly admires.

Throwing caution to the wind, Pearl realizes that his recent actions,

both professional and personal, jeopardize what he has spent years working to-

ward. Not only does he involve himself in Leland's life without authorization but he has an affair with a coworker, further muddying the ethical waters he's treading.

In tackling this timely subject matter, Hoge bases his

story on what he experienced while working at juvenile hall. Attempting to find out why so many young kids commit heinous crimes only seemed to raise new questions about not only how society, family, and friendships play a role in shaping these offenders' moral compass, but also

of the victim metes out justice in an implausible manner.

To some extent, there may be too many subplots for the film's good. However, they flesh out the supporting cast and provide an important emotional counterpoint to the main intellectual thrust of the story.

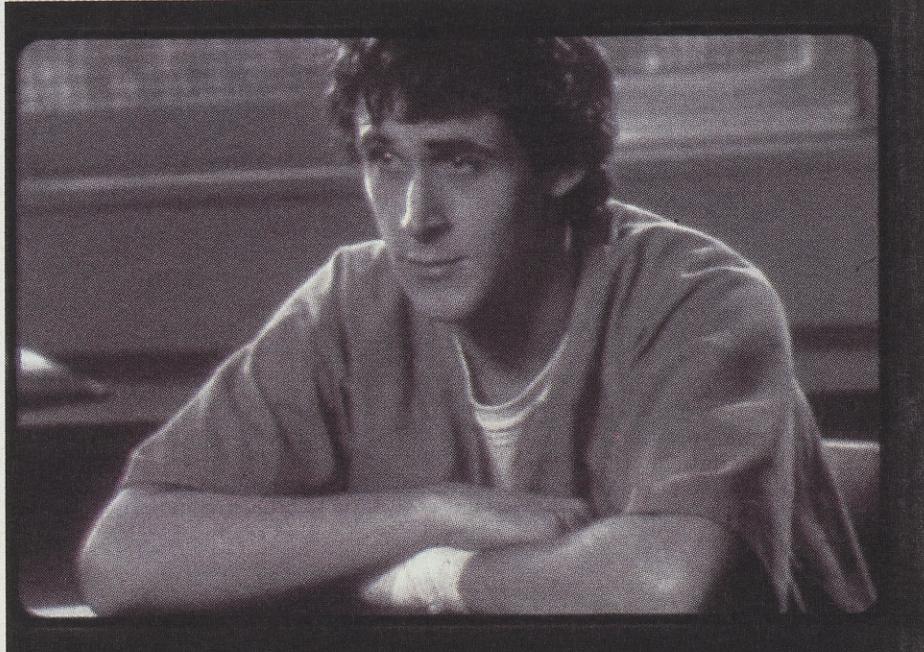
The cast is excellent. Cheadle is so much fun to see in this role that you wish he would appear in more films like

this than his usual supporting roles in action flicks. Gosling conveys thoughtfulness and sincerity well, without pretense.

Malone is all about unbridled immaturity and rebellion that collide with her pampered youth. Spacey acts as you would expect: with heightened levels of sarcasm and arrogance that can elicit chuckles if you ignore their seriousness.

In the end, the answers that Leland tells Pearl sound reasonable. But they are not satisfying. Unfortunately, they may be the only way to understand why good people turn bad.

The United States of Leland plays at the Tower Theatre. Info: www.paramountclassics.com/leland.



Ryan Gosling stars as a troubled teen in *The United States of Leland*.

The United States of Leland
Starring Don Cheadle, Ryan Gosling, Jena Malone, and Kevin Spacey. Written and directed by Matthew Ryan Hoge. Rated R, 104 min.

how he justified his own moral behavior.

Despite the melodramatic nature of the plot, Hoge keeps the focus mostly on Leland and Pearl—playing one off the other—and confusing the situation only at the end when a family friend



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GLAAD Honors Antonio Banderas, John Waters at 15th Annual GLAAD Media Awards

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) honored **Antonio Banderas**, **John Waters**, and the best in journalism, film, television and theater last night at the 15th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. Presented by ABSOLUT VODKA in Los Angeles.

At the ceremonies held at the Kodak Theatre, **Antonio Banderas** received GLAAD's Vanguard Award, honoring a member of the entertainment community who has made a significant difference in promoting equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

"I am going to be tonight very strongly on the side of those who are fighting for a legal frame in which they can develop their relationship normally in their lives," Banderas said in accepting the award. "In other words, gay marriage - yes, please! Absolutely yes!"

The winner will be selected

Also at the ceremony, **Tracey Ullman** presented independent film pioneer **John Waters** with GLAAD's Stephen F. Kolzak Award, which honors an openly gay or lesbian member of the entertainment or media community for their outstanding contribution in combating homophobia. Accompanied by Tony Award-winning lyricist and composer **Marc Shaiman**, Ullman performed scenes from Water's early films set to music by Shaiman.

GLAAD used the spotlight of the Los Angeles GLAAD Media Awards to announce a new campaign aimed at changing hearts and minds on the topic of same-sex marriage. GLAAD's "I DO" campaign is a national competition to create a 30-second commercial television spot to promote the rights of same-sex couples to marry.

"In a year where the enemies of equality want to define the American family by how many people they can exclude from it, the stakes are high for all of us," said GLAAD Executive Director **Joan M. Garry** to the crowd of over 2,000. "But each of you has the power and the opportunity to make a difference — by using the power of your stories to build a vision of America where equality, fairness and love are values that all Americans share."

The winner will be selected

Presenter **Melanie Griffith** (left), GLAAD Executive Director **Joan M. Garry**, and Vanguard Award honoree **Antonio Banderas** at the 15th Annual GLAAD Media Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles, March 27, 2004.

Photo by Steve Granitz/WireImage.com

by a panel of celebrity judges and announced at GLAAD's June 5 Media Awards in San Francisco. The judges include director **Jane Anderson** ("Normal"), director **Paris Barclay** ("The West Wing"), producer **Bruce Cohen** ("American Beauty"), writer/actor **Heather Juergensen** ("Kissing Jessica Stein"), actor **Judith Light** ("The Stones"), writer/director **Kevin Williamson** ("Scream"), and producer **Craig Zadan** ("Chicago"). Additional celebrity judges will be announced in the coming weeks.

The deadline for submissions is May 11, 2004. Official contest rules, technical requirements, and application form are available online at www.glaad.org/ido. ▼

Info:www.glaad.org

Prism Comics Takes a Serious Look Beyond "Queer Eye"

Laughter is the best medicine," as the saying goes. In the case of the writers of the new comics review column, "Queer Eye on Comics", they firmly believe it's true.

The irreverent weekly column takes mainstream, non-gay comics and exposes them for the ridiculous, campy pop-culture delights they sometimes are. From wondering if **Frank Miller** had boat payments to make when he did "The Dark Knight Strikes Again" to noticing the curious number of times Ultra Boy got tied up in "Legion of Super-Heroes" to the thrills and spills of comics about psychoanalysis (really!), the "Queer Eye" Review Crew digs deep for unintentional comedy, and always finds a gold mine.

And if the visitors in search of some comics-related hilarity look around the Prism Comics website while they're there, they just might learn a thing or two about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) issues in comics.

"Our weekly 'Queer Eye on Comics' feature is a big success," said Prism Advisory Board Member **Rich Thigpen**. "Daily traffic to our site has

increased more than 35% since the humorous column's debut in February. However, as fun as our snarky commentaries on mainstream comics are in 'Queer Eye,' it's always been our intent to also feature serious reviews of comics with overt GLBT themes on our site. Past favorites like 'Sandman,' as well as current titles like 'The Ciderview Project' and 'Gotham Central,' always deserve more exposure to potential comics readers. Therefore, Prism is now actively seeking writers — both professional and amateur — to take a more serious look at comics dealing with GLBT issues in a new feature called 'Color Commentary.'"

"It's important to be able to laugh at ourselves," Prism Comics President **Charles "zan" Christensen** said, "and that can be a powerful way to connect with people we might not otherwise reach. But another way to reach people is to demonstrate the extraordinary variety of comics coming from LGBT creators. There are intensely personal stories, stirring political commentary, educational and scholarly works — the list goes on and on. We try to promote good comics by LGBT creators and to encourage honest exploration of LGBT themes in comics. We're excited about this new way to do that."

Guidelines for submissions to "Color Commentary," "Queer Eye on Comics," and "Prism Comics: Your GLBT Guide to Comics" can be found on the web. ▼

Info:www.prismcomics.org

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Montreal 2006 Becomes the First World Out Games

Sunday in Boston," announced **Mark Tewksbury**, Co-President of Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006. "We experienced the beginning of a new future for the international gay and lesbian sports movement. The creation of the Gay & Lesbian International Sports Association (GLISA) marks a commitment to service the growing needs of the international GLBT sport movement.

GLISA is an organization built on values that are shared by thousands of gay and lesbian athletes around the world, and this week launched a new brand of sport games called OutGames.

GLISA has also proposed the negotiation of a partnership agreement with Rendez-Vous Montréal to host the 1st World OutGames in 2006. Montréal 2006 has worked hard at bringing a vision of an Olympic-sized event to life over the past four years, and we are delighted that our accomplishments are being recognized, and our vision shared by GLISA."

Last January, a Think Tank of over twenty representatives of the GLBT and traditional sport movements met in Montréal, Canada, to discuss the future of GLBT sports. Shortly after the groups' departure from Montréal, the three working committees produced significant sounding documents on governance, marketing/finance and athletes needs. These documents now form the foundation of GLISA's mission, vision and values.

GLISA will service the needs of athletes by coordinating, as one example, a global event calendar. Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006 would be the 1st World OutGames, followed by a 2nd World OutGames in 2009.

The Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006 sports programme will be an exciting display of athletic achievement, catering to all levels of ability with competitions in 33 sports disciplines.

Competitions will be spread out over 7 days with at least 16,000 participants coming from all over the world. The games will make extensive use of the world-class athletic facilities originally constructed for the Games of the XXI Olympiad in 1976 and exceptionally maintained ever since.

Montréal's gay and lesbian sports teams have, over the years, developed the skills and experience necessary for organizing local, national, and international competitions. These teams have come together under the banner of "Équipe Montréal" (Team Montréal), which represents 23 teams, and over 1,000 members.

There are no minimum athletic standards to qualify for participation in the 1st World OutGames. People with specific needs or disabilities are integrated as full-fledged participants, volunteers, officials and spectators. The only requirement is the desire to support the core beliefs of the games, which are:

- Participation and celebration
- Respect and fairness,
- Innovation

- Diversity
- Empowerment

The 1st World OutGames will create the opportunity to unite and connect thousands of people from within and OUT of the community, creating an environment where people are free to be themselves and sport

is practiced without discrimination of any kind.

From 26 to 29 July, 2006, "The Right to Be Different", an international conference on gay and lesbian rights, will also be held within the framework of the 1st World OutGames. Some 2,000 participants are expected

at the conference, the first international gathering on such a large scale, which will bring together judges, lawyers, scholars, human rights advocates, activists and numerous experts on gay and lesbian rights.

Catch the Montréal feeling! ▼
Info: www.montreal2006.org

Sirens Douse Scorchers 63-0

By Maggie Bowen
MGW Staff

The Sacramento Sirens opened the season in fine form by defeating the Santa Rosa Scorchers 63-0.

In an awesome offensive and defensive display, the Sirens, passed, faked, ran and tackled as well as any pro football team can.

After an opening kickoff return of 19 yards by #22 Julie Wicher, a first down pass play to #81, Tanido Junko for 34 yards, and a one yard run by Wicher for a touchdown, the Scorchers never had a chance.

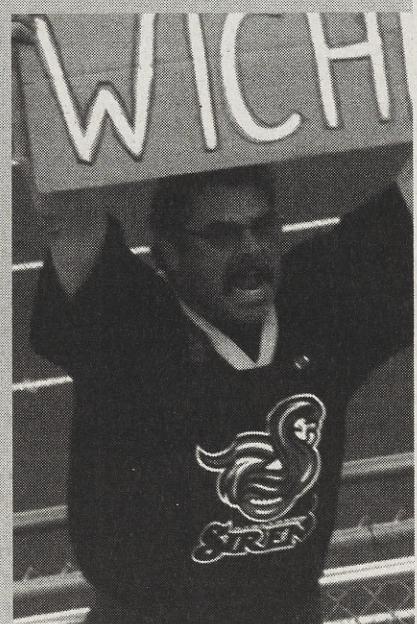
The Scorchers were outplayed, out tackled and outmaneuvered. The Sirens fans loved it. There was a festive atmosphere, as befits an opening game, with tailgate

parties in the parking lot, a band at halftime, a film crew from Channel 3, and the "Sign Guy" keeping the 1200 plus crowd loud and roudy.

In short, everything any big league could want for the first game of the season.

The question on the lips of Sirens fans is no longer "Will the Sirens win?", but "Will the Sirens let their opponents score?"

Find out for yourself when the Sirens play the California Quake on April 17th at 6pm on Bella Vista High School field. ▼



MGW Photo/Maggie Bowen

The "Sign Guy" revs up the crowd.

Billie Jean King Becomes Gay Games Ambassador

Gay Games VII will be July 15-22 2006 in Chicago

Tennis legend **Billie Jean King**, celebrated as one of the most important women of the 20th Century, has become an official Ambassador of the Federation of Gay Games (FGG). She joins Olympic gold-medalist **Bruce Hayes**, former U.S. Ambassador **James C. Hormel**, actress and activist **Judith Light**, and artist **Tom Bianchi** as Gay Games Ambassadors.

The announcement of King's support was made jointly by Chicago Games, Inc., host of Gay Games VII, and the FGG. King, a part-time Chicagoan, has strong ties to the Windy City through both the sports and non-profit communities.

"The Gay Games have long held a special place in my

heart," said King in a statement. "Together, the previous six Gay Games have motivated millions worldwide with the mission of achieving one's personal best, regardless of sexual orientation. Just as with the women's sports movement, the Gay Games have helped to tear down stereotypes. I am particularly pleased to lend my support as Chicago is poised to continue the legacy as host of Gay Games VII."

"We are immensely honored that Ms. King has chosen to become a Gay Games Ambassador," said FGG co-president **Kathleen Webster** of Philadelphia. "Billie Jean King galvanized the women's movement in sports. Since she courageously came out as a lesbian, she

has also served as a role model for gay and lesbian athletes. As a lesbian martial arts competitor, I am grateful to have followed in the pioneering footsteps of Ms. King."

Billie Jean King has long been strongly committed to the worldwide sports movement. Her World Team Tennis Charities promotes health, fitness, education and social change. Even more significantly, she remains a champion for social change.

She was a leader of the women's rights movement in the 1970s and is largely responsible for the popularity of women's sports today. She was named by Life magazine as one of the 100 Most Important Americans of the 20th Century. ▼

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Sunless Tanning

By Deborah Frank
MGW Staff

The only truly safe way to obtain that summer bronzed look is by the use of a sunless tanning product. It is becoming increasingly more important that we be aware of the harmful effects of the sun and tanning beds. Even sun worshippers such as me are starting to apply sunscreen before going outdoors. Alas, the days of slathering my body in baby oil mixed with iodine are over! With skin cancer becoming the #1 fastest growing form of cancer in America, using a bit of caution can go a long way towards preventing problems later. I plan to discuss more sun safety in my next column (MGW May 1).

For now, know that it is possible to obtain a natural looking tan without the sun! There are just a few precautions that must be taken during the application process in order to achieve the most even tan possible. Be sure to choose a sunless tanner than is tinted and is in a cream form. It is much easier to apply the product evenly and effectively if it can be seen. If you need to shave your legs or any other part of your body, do that first. Next, keep in mind that you must exfoliate your skin, regardless of the brand of sunless tanner you have chosen.

Remember, exfoliation removes dead skin cells which makes your final result much more even. A good choice for an all over body exfoliant would be a salt scrub applied in the shower with a loofah or other semi-rough sponge. Be sure and pay extra attention to the knees, elbows and heels. Rinse well and dry the skin before beginning.

Now that the skin has been properly prepared, you can begin applying the product. It is helpful to wear latex gloves in order to avoid staining your hands. But, if you don't have any gloves, just be sure to wash your hands with soap and water immediately following the application process! Otherwise, it WILL stain your palms orange!

The application needs to be

done in a pattern such as one arm front and back, other arm front and back etc. This helps to prevent any mix ups where an area is skipped and you don't realize it until later. Go lightly over the knees, elbows and heel areas since they can get too dark and make your final result look less natural.

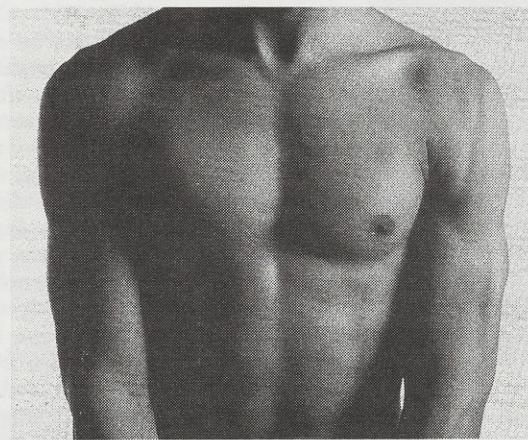
Obtaining even distribution to your back can be difficult, so ask for help from a friend if needed. Lastly, follow the directions on the specific product you are using. How long to wait before getting dressed and how much time between applications varies from product to product. If this is your first time, don't be surprised if you require a touch up to fill in any missed areas.

As long as the touch up application is done within 24 hours of the original application, a second exfoliation is not necessary. Tanning of the face can be done using self tanning products specifically designed for this purpose.

The average "bottled" tan lasts about one week. This of course depends on the product, how often you shower, swim etc. and how well the product was applied. Try reapplying before the prior application has completely faded away, this helps to prolong the tan.

If the thought of a "do it yourself" sunless tanner doesn't excite you, make an appointment at a day spa. A sunless tanner can be combined with a body treatment and applied for you. Also available at many tanning salons are the "Mystic" type of tans where you stand in a booth and are sprayed all over with a sunless tanning product.

The Mystic tan resembles a



This photo is from the book "Ultimate Gay Sex" by Michael Thomas Ford.

car wash for people and is usually sold in packages of several treatments. Some tanning salons even offer an air-brushed tan done by people trained to spray a tan on the way paint is sprayed on a car! Have fun with it; don't be afraid to use trial and error. You'll find something that works for your skin color, and you'll be safer too!

Till next time...use that sunscreen! ▼

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Healing Hands, Healing Hearts Announces New Board

By Brenda Jew Waters
Guest Writer

Healing Hands, Healing Hearts, incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2002, announces this year's board of directors. The organization was created to provide on-site therapeutic massage and a variety of other complimentary care techniques to the seriously ill and those nearing end of life.

The board of directors are as follows:

Jo Williams, CMT, HTPE is the President and founder of Healing Hands, Healing Hearts. Her education includes Certified Massage Therapist, Healing Touch Certification Program, and Hospice Training.

Kevin Williams resides in Land Park. He is currently a partner in the management training and consulting firm. He has over 30 years experience in Fortune 500 companies Kevin joined because he strongly believes in the services that Healing Hands, Healing Hearts provides and wants to help assure these services are available to all who need them.

Ricki Townsend, a resident of Fair Oaks worked 22 years with the Sacramento Bee until her retirement. From 1999 to 2002, she cared for her grandmother. She is trained in hospice and AIDS hospice and volunteered for AIDS hospice home

Bradley G. Booth, Resident of Sacramento since 1970. Brad is a local attorney in private practice who limits his practice to the representation of employee's and immigration. Brad was previously the Chief Counsel of the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing and an attorney for

SEIU Local 1000 (CSEA).

Marie Booth, A resident of East Sacramento, and an Elementary School Principal in the Robla School District.

Karen Sharp is the secretary on the board. She resides in East Sacramento and works for the Department of Aging.

Donna Russell is a resident of East Sacramento and a Certified Massage Therapist/ CranioSacral Therapist

Max Selby is retired and volunteers for Francis House.

Healing Hands, Healing Hearts was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2002. It was created to provide on-site therapeutic massage and a variety of other complementary care techniques to the seriously ill and those nearing end of life. Its intention is to deliver these services on a donation basis to those in need in the greater Sacramento area. Healing Hands, Healing Hearts is unique, filling the gap between fee-based and volunteer services currently available.

Helping Hand therapists offer many skills. Most have also received Hospice training so they are comfortable being with individuals in transition. ▼

▼Individuals ▼Couples ▼Groups

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Dear Tabby

Cathy Replies & Candid Observations

Dear Tabby,
My human has been distracted lately and is not paying enough attention to me. I want to scratch on the furniture or claw something valuable, just to get noticed. I know this is wrong, but I can't help myself. What should I do?

Claude from Tahoe Park

Dear Claude,
You must curb your impulses. Surely you are provided with a scratching post for emergencies such as this. Perhaps your human is under stress from work and needs your understanding. It's not always about you, you

know. Try getting in her lap and purring. Be soothing and gentle with her. Otherwise you might be known as "D. Claude" in Tahoe Park.

Tabby

Dear Tabby,
I'm worried that I will get AIDS because of the time I spend with humans. I spend a lot of time on their laps and I like to purr in their ears. I'm worried that all this contact will cause me to be infected. Is there any protection that I can use. I know other cats who have died from FIV. Is this the same as the AIDS virus in humans? Can I be infected? How do I get protection?

Worried Sick in Land Park

Dear Worried,
Stop stressing. Stress itself can lead to illnesses in both humans

worldwide. Although widespread, it is not common and only 1-2% of cats show evidence of exposure.

Being FIV positive is not the same as having feline AIDS. It means that you have been infected by the virus but are not showing symptoms.

Although HIV in humans and FIV in felines belong to the same family of viruses and the effects are similar, there is no cause for alarm. The virus is specific for each species and there is no danger of cross infection between the immunodeficiency viruses of cats and humans.

The virus is transmitted mainly through saliva and requires fairly direct inoculation of the saliva, as in a bite, because FIV is not able to survive for very long outside of living cat cells. Cats who are known fighters, partic-

ularly those with a history of cat bite abscesses are at higher risk for FIV. Kittens born to an infected mother are also at high risk for FIV.

FIV can be diagnosed easily through a blood test. Kittens under four months who are tested should be retested after six months.

The disease is specific to the cat family. It was first recognized in the 1980's and has been found in cats worldwide. Although widespread, it is not common and only 1-2% of cats show evidence of exposure.

Being FIV positive is not the same as having feline AIDS. It means that you have been infected by the virus but are not showing symptoms.

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ularly those with a history of cat bite abscesses are at higher risk for FIV. Kittens born to an infected mother are also at high risk for FIV.

Do I have to worry about anything or can I just keep eating as much as I want?

Portly in Midtown

Dear Portly,

Obesity, defined as an excess body weight of 20% or more, is definitely a problem, and the most common nutritional disease for us cats. Almost 40% of cats are obese, just like our human counterparts! Obesity puts us at risk for diabetes, lower urinary tract disease and a host of other problems that can reduce our life span, again, just like for our human friends.

There are many factors that can lead to obesity. Some are probably genetic, like if you had an obese mother or father, your chances of being obese are higher than a cat whose parents were not obese. Diet and environment also have a huge impact as well. For instance, many of us live indoors and don't get as much exercise as those who go outdoors.

We also eat out of boredom. The good news is that obesity can be treated. It's best to do so under a vet's care. It's not good to lose weight too fast, since that puts us at risk for severe liver disease. Weight lost slowly is more likely to stay lost. There are no drugs or magic pills. Only a reduced calorie diet combined with increased exercise will actually result in weight loss. There are commercial "low-calorie" diets that are available from veterinarians.

In the long run it's best to set realistic expectations. Usually a 15-20% loss is a good target and one that is easily achieved. Instead of being proudly portly, think about how happy you will be when you can run, play and have fun with your family again. Stop sleeping so much and start chasing that fake mouse!

Tabby

Send questions for Dear Tabby to editor@mgnews.com, and put "Tabby" in the subject line.



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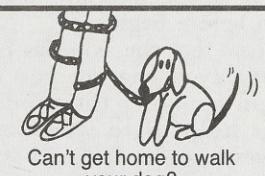
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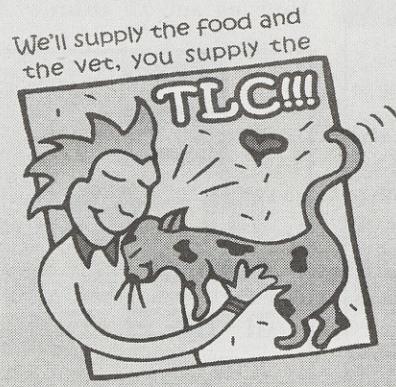
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HIV Newsline

By Sonya Cox
AIDS/HIV Editor

Half don't use protection...

In a recent random on-line sampling of 1,155 people ages 18-35, nearly 84 percent of respondents said they believe they are adequately protected against sexually transmitted diseases, even though nearly half said they engage in unprotected sex. About 93 percent put their faith in assuming their current or most recent partner does not have an STD --- yet one out of three people had never discussed STDs with their partner. Over 82 percent of the respondents never use protection for oral sex, 64 percent never use protection for anal sex, and of those engaging in vaginal sex, nearly half never use protection.

production. Models who have previously appeared in Titan Media productions, and who have gone on to perform in bareback films, will no longer be eligible to work for Titan Media.

The company says it will support the continued sale and distribution of older, "pre-condom" adult films produced at a time when sex without condoms was not a life-threatening behavior. In the same manner that mainstream films of the 1950s and 1960s feature cigarette smoking but yet are still widely distributed and enjoyed, the company says it will continue to support the availability of "pre-condom" adult features. Sex without condoms in these "pre-condom" features was not a health hazard and was the accepted behavior at that time, they said.

STDs IN AMERICA

The American Social Health Association estimates there are more than 15 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases in the United States each year.

STD Incidence

Chlamydia 3,000,000 **Gonorrhea** 650,000
Syphilis 70,000 **Herpes** 1,000,000 **Human papillomavirus**
Hepatitis B 5,500,000 **Hepatitis B** 77,000 **Trichomoniasis**
HIV 5,000,000 **HIV** 20,000

"What surprised us, and distressed us, is the fact that so many young adults believe they are not at risk of a sexually transmitted disease." They simply assume their sexual partner is not at risk, rather than actually talking with their partner about whether they may or may not be at risk, said the American Social Health Association.

The study also found that more than half of the people interviewed were unsure of their vaccination status or said they had not been vaccinated against hepatitis A and hepatitis B. In fact, about 68 percent gave little thought to the possibility of contracting an STD, and half said they did not know hepatitis A or B could even be sexually transmitted. The health association said more than 1.25 million Americans have hepatitis B, and both hepatitis A and hepatitis B are vaccine-preventable. ▼

Movie makers take tough stand on barebacking...

Erotic gay film maker Titan Media has announced it will not knowingly hire any model or performer who has previously appeared in films that depict or portray "barebacking" or unprotected anal sex. During the model application process, potential models will be asked about any previous involvement in "bareback" films, says the company's release.

Any potential model who has performed in any film featuring barebacking will automatically be disqualified from performing in a Titan Media or ManPlay

Today's "bareback" films depict and eroticize high-risk behavior as the centerpiece of their sensuality --- risking HIV is the fetish and foundation of these presentations. Titan officials say they find this to be reprehensible, and an attempt to profit at the risk of the health and safety of performers and the community at large.

As the leading gay adult studio and producer, they say they must take a stand and lead by example. The company was founded on a core principle of eroticizing and portraying safer sex practices. They recognize that some younger gay men, and others discovering their true sexuality later in life, may adopt the habits and practices they see in adult films and then take those practices and behaviors out into the community at large. ▼

Immune cells grown in a dish...

Scientists at the University of Toronto have found a way to grow T-cells from mouse embryonic stem cells, which normally form all the tissues in a mouse embryo. Previously, researchers had converted mouse and human embryonic stem cells into blood and muscle, but had not been able to coax them into producing T-cells.

The scientists said they succeeded in identifying a molecule, DLI, that is essential to T-cell production. They then genetically engineered cells to produce DLI, then grew embryonic stem cells

on top of that. The DLI stimulated the stem cells to make immature immune cells. When implanted into mice without immune systems, the immature cells produced mature T-cells, helping the mice fight off a mild viral infection.

The researchers say they hope that one day T-cells grown from human embryonic stem cells might be used for people with HIV or cancer whose own T-cells have been destroyed or reduced in number. The technique would work best in humans, they speculate, if the immature cells could be delivered to the thymus, which normally makes T-cells --- but researchers do not yet know how to do this.

Theoretically, lab-made immune cells could work for anyone as they lack surface molecules that trigger rejection. Because embryonic stem cells keep dividing indefinitely, it could be possible to sprout an unlimited supply. ▼

Activists shred a million N-9 condoms in protest...

Activists shredded 750,000 condoms lubricated with the spermicide nonoxynol-9 (N-9) at a press conference held at Mayer Labs, as the Mayer factory in Japan destroyed an additional 250,000. The condoms were from Mayer's inventory and re-called returns from the marketplace. The company voluntarily stopped making N-9 products in September 2002, acting immediately on World Health Organization and CDC reports showing that the substance, once thought to protect against HIV, actually leaves its users more vulnerable to infection.

The action is part of a boycott effort aimed at manufacturers still making condoms with the ingredient, and at health agencies and retailers still doing business with these condom makers. The three major manufacturers still making N-9 condoms are Armarkel (maker of Trojans), Ansell (maker of LifeStyles) and Okamoto Industries (maker of Beyond Seven).

The activists were also critical of the Food & Drug Administration, which they said has allowed N-9 condoms to be sold. An FDA spokesperson says the agency is addressing those concerns with a proposal that calls for new labeling requirements. ▼

Natural latex in rainforest gets go-ahead...

In an effort to cut the rising costs of importing condoms, the Brazilian government has given scientists there the go-ahead on a prototype condom made from natural latex found in an Amazon rain forest reserve. A study by scientists at the University of Rio de Janeiro led to the development of an environmentally

friendly condom that easily passed quality control tests. The researchers say the condoms are made with native rubber extracted from the Chico Mendes reserve.

Brazil's Health Ministry and local authorities plan to support the construction of a new plant to manufacture the condoms and ultimately lower the health costs associated with the distribution of some 600 million condoms each year in Brazil. The new factory is expected to turn out 100 million condoms in 2005, and double that number in 2006. ▼

China to abolish forced isolation of people with AIDS...

China's National People's Congress will amend a 15-year-old contagious disease prevention law, and abolish the forced isolation of people with AIDS, according to a release by the country's official news agency. Approximately 300 local and central government laws regulate AIDS prevention and control, including some that impose restrictions on employment, education, marriage rights and privacy for those with the disease.

The amendment represents an institutional start to eliminate stigma and discrimination, said one member of congress. The story also repeated forecasts that the number of people in China with HIV would reach 10 million in 2010 in the best case scenario, and possibly 20 million "if drastic actions were not immediately taken."

A fundamental obstacle to China's HIV/AIDS fight, say experts, is discrimination against people with the disease, much of it created by the country's own isolationist laws.

Condom label changes set off debate...

The request by President Bush to have the Food & Drug Administration modify warnings on condom packaging to include information about human papillomavirus (HPV/genital warts) has set off a fierce debate.

On one side are scientists who say that condoms should be promoted as a critical line of defense against STDs. On the other are groups that advocate abstinence before marriage and see the dangers of HPV as a justification for their cause.

The Family Health Institute says that, while teaching abstinence is a key to preventing the spread of HPV, condoms are the "best imperfect way we have" for those who are sexually active. FDA officials say that condensing the extensive and complicated medical literature on HPV down to a few words on a condom label will not be easy. ▼

In Loving Memory of Friends Lost in April

April 1986:

Scott Oatman • Randy Pike • Don Perez

April 1987:

Kevin Adams • Mel D. Foote

Mick Shaughnessy

April 1988:

Scott Jay Miller

April 1989:

Jose (Joe) Herrera • C. K. McClatchy

April 1990:

Kenny Pendergast • Stanton Kotter

Walter Williams • Paul Martin

Dr. Lee Wreyford • Gary McDaniel

Ryan White

April 1991:

Dr. Laz Nemeth • Chad Andrew Henry

Manuel Silva

April 1992:

Chris Angeles • Louis Franklin

Lauren Searle • Michael Croker

Jeffrey Poile

April 1993:

Donald Thompson • Stephen Green • Ben R.

Sal G. • Donald Pruitt • David Oliver

April 1994:

Jim DiStefano • Andrew Swanson

Steve Unruh • Philip Waggoner

Jack A. • Emilee P.

Rawlston Deen Poole • Jay Johnson

Wally Antosiewicz • Vance E. Neel

April 1995:

Wayde Winsley • Joseph Wm. Leis

Ronald Campbell-Gallaher • Rodney E.

Daniel Miles Cargile • Wayne Fred Risley

Bob Chermack • Joseph Wm. Leis

Richard Lynn King • Billy Kimpton

Larry Bane

April 1996:

Jerry Castillo Arnold • Jon Allman

Al Hader • Gary L.

George Ray Peterson • Linda H.

Eric Lee Cook • Steven L. Martin

April 1998:

Shannon Davis • Jon Anthony Bridgham

Steven Bruggeman

April 1999:

Mike Amoretti • Richard Monnier

April 2000:

Joe Garrett

April 2001:

Eric Hogan • Akili Jaye • Jimmy Mazza

Anthony "Garth" Harrison, Jr.

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure

To add the names of loved ones to MGW's remembrance column, CALL 737-0309.

For info about creating a NAMES Project AIDS memorial panel, CALL 484-5646.

Calendar

APRIL

15 **THURSDAY**
CABERET LIVES WITH GAYIEL VON AND JIM FINGERZ, 7-10pm, Delta King, Pilot Lounge, 444-KING, (w)

16 **FRIDAY**
CENTER FOR AIDS PREVENTION CONFERENCE, 8am-5pm, SF Marriott, www.rldent.com

TOWE AUTO MUSEUM AN EVENING WITH KATHERINE HEPBURN, 7pm, 2200 Front St., 442-6802

LE BALLET AFRICAINS, 8pm, Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center, 530-754-ARTS (2787)

CAFE LAMBDA, 9:30 pm, Lambda Center, 442-0189 (w)

THE COMING OUT PARTY, 8pm, Geary Theatre, 2130 L St.

CGNIE INTERNATIONAL COURT CONFERENCE, www.CGNIE.com

WINE TASTING AT THE DAVIS CO-OP, 530-758-2667

17 **SATURDAY**
TRET FURE, JUDY SMALL, 7:30pm, 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, 510-339-1832

WAYNE SHORTER QUARTET, DANILO PEREZ, JOHN PATITUCCI & BRIAN BLADE; BRAD MEHLDAU TRIO, 8pm, masonic Auditorium, SF, www.sjazz.org

MUMBO GUMBO, 8:30pm, 13 Main Street, Winters, www.mumbogumbo.com

GSAC DINNER, Jack's Urban Eats, 723-8644

SACRAMENTO SIREN VS. CALIFORNIA QUAKE, 6pm, Bella Vista HS, www.sacramentsirens.com

THE COMING OUT PARTY, 8pm, Geary Theatre, 2130 L St.

CGNIE INTERNATIONAL COURT CONFERENCE, www.CGNIE.com

GSA LEADERSHIP TRAINING, 10am-4pm, SF LGBT Youth Space, 1800 Market, 415-552-4229

ROSE GARDEN'S ANNUAL OPEN GARDEN, 10am-3pm, Sacramento cemetery, 10th & Broadway, 443-2146

UCD PICNIC DAY, 10am, http://picnicday.ucdavis.edu

MASTER GARDNER PLANT CLINIC, Masuda's Nursery, 8501 Jackson Rd., 875-6913

CHICKEN APPRECIATION DAY, 11am-2pm, Folsom City Zoo, 351-3527

18 **SUNDAY**
SISTERS OF SCOTA W.M.C., 3230 Orange Grove Ave., NH, id_innocent@msn.com (m)

BRIGHT SUNDAY, Parkside Community Church - UCC, April 18, 2004 - 10:30 am, 5700 S. Land Park Drive & 35th Ave., 421-0492

CGNIE INTERNATIONAL COURT CONFERENCE, www.CGNIE.com

LWORD SACRAMENTO WOMYN'S SOCIAL GROUP, 6:45pm, 8322 Benjamin, Antelope, 821-2304 (w)

19 **MONDAY**
WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT PLANNING MEETING, 12-1pm, MU, Moss Hall, UCD, 530-752-3299

MATH CAFE, 8:15-10:15pm, 114 North Hall, UCD, facomar@ucdavis.edu

SACRAMENTO OCD SUPPORT GROUP, 7-9pm, 7700 Folsom Blvd, 916-456-1996

ASIAN FILM FEST, 6:30pm, UCD, 194 Chemistry Building, 530-752-0830

20 **TUESDAY**
WEAVE/LAMBDA COLLABORATION, 6pm, Lambda Center, Room D, 442-0185 or 448-2321 (w)

PFAG MEETING, 7:30pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2931 St. Mark's Way, www.sacramentopfag.org, 978-0410 (m)

SVL GENERAL MEETING, 7:00 pm, Lambda Center, 486-5500

YUBA-SUTTER PRIDE DINNER, 7:00 pm, Peach Tree Restaurant, 1080 North Beale Rd., 530-743-4918

BPP AUDITIONS, for "Sci Fi Hotel", 7-10pm, 2022 Del Paso.

ASIAN FILM FEST, 6:30pm, UCD, 194 Chemistry Building, 530-752-0830

MASCULINITY AND VIOLENCE, all day, CSUS University Union, Hinde Auditorium, 448-2321

21 **WEDNESDAY**
GLESN GSAC, proudly endorses today as the Day of Silence in 2004, www.gesac.org/silgsac

FIRST STAGES, 9:30 pm, Lambda Center, Rm. D, 442-0189 (m)

THE LARAMIE PROJECT, A PLAY ABOUT MATTHEW SHEPARD, 7:30 pm, Consumes River College, 691-7364

GLESN DAY OF SILENCE, www.dayofsilence.org

ASIAN FILM FEST, 6:30pm, UCD, 194 Chemistry Building, 530-752-0830

JOE ZAWINUL SYNDICATE, Palace of Fine Arts, SF, www.sjazz.org

22 **THURSDAY**
CABERET LIVES WITH GAYIEL VON AND JIM FINGERZ, 7-10pm, Delta King, Pilot Lounge, 444-KING, (w)

PET FIRST AID, 6-10pm, Carmichael Park Clubhouse, 5750 Grunt Ave., 485-5322

THE LARAMIE PROJECT, A PLAY ABOUT MATTHEW SHEPARD, 7:30 pm, Consumes River College, 691-7364

LEATHER AND FRIENDS NIGHT OUT, 7:00 pm, Amarin Thai restaurant, 12th & J, 486-5500

ASIAN FILM FEST, 6:30pm, UCD, 194 Chemistry Building, 530-752-0830

23 **FRIDAY**
CAFE LAMBDA, 9:30 pm, Lambda Center, 442-0189 (w)

THE COMING OUT PARTY, 8pm, Geary Theatre, 2130 L St.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT, A PLAY ABOUT MATTHEW SHEPARD, 8:00 pm, Consumes River College, 691-7364

24 **SATURDAY**
NCLR GALA WITH KATE KENDELL AND KATE CLINTON, mindy@bawc.org

GSAC MOVIE NIGHT WITH AL & JUAN, 723-8644

CAFE LAMBDA, 9:30 pm, Lambda Center, 442-0189 (w)

THE COMING OUT PARTY, 8pm, Geary Theatre, 2130 L St.

THE ESSENTIALS AT FOX & GOOSE, 9:30pm, 1001 R St., 530-756-8260

THE LARAMIE PROJECT, A PLAY ABOUT MATTHEW SHEPARD, 8:00 pm, Consumes River College, 691-7364

NATIONAL GENDER EQUITY CONFERENCE, 9:30pm, Washington, D.C., www.ncwgo.org

RAINBOW LOUNGE WOMEN'S COFFEE SOCIAL, 2:00pm, Starbucks, 885 Colusa Ave., 530-671-3187

GSA HIGH SCHOOL DANCE, Hiram Johnson High School

MASTER GARDNER PLANT CLINIC, CSUS Earth Day, 875-6913

25 **SUNDAY**

THE LARAMIE PROJECT, A PLAY ABOUT MATTHEW SHEPARD, 2:00 pm, Consumes River College, 691-7364

DOWNTOWN DIVAS VARIETY REVUE & CGNIE FUNDRAISER, 7:00 pm, Downtown Grille, Marysville, www.cgnie.com

LWORD SACRAMENTO WOMYN'S SOCIAL GROUP, 6:45pm, 8322 Benjamin, Antelope, 821-2304 (w)

26 **MONDAY**

WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT PLANNING MEETING, 12-1pm, MU, Moss Hall, UCD, 530-752-3299

MATH CAFE, 8:15-10:15pm, 114 North Hall, UCD, facomar@ucdavis.edu

27 **TUESDAY**

WEAVE/LAMBDA COLLABORATION, 6pm, Lambda Center, Room D, 442-0185 or 448-2321 (w)

LLACE MOVIE NIGHT "THE HUNGER," 1414 - 21st St., www.lavenderlibrary.org

28 **WEDNESDAY**

PUBLIC ART TOUR, SACRAMENTO CONVENTION CENTER, 566-3992

SACRAMENTO ZOO-COLD BLOODED FRIENDS, 264-8814

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT, 6pm, CSUS Residence Halls

29 **THURSDAY**

CABERET LIVES WITH GAYIEL VON AND JIM FINGERZ, 7-10pm, Delta King, Pilot Lounge, 444-KING, (w)

THE LARAMIE PROJECT, A PLAY ABOUT MATTHEW SHEPARD, 7:30 pm, Consumes River College, 691-7364

30 **FRIDAY**

CAFE LAMBDA, 9:30 pm, Lambda Center, 442-0189 (w)

THE COMING OUT PARTY, 8pm, Geary Theatre, 2130 L St.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT, A PLAY ABOUT MATTHEW SHEPARD, 8:00 pm, Consumes River College, 691-7364

JOSHUA REDMAN WITH ALL-STAR TRIO, Herbst Theatres, SF, www.sjazz.org

MAY

1 **SATURDAY**

CAFE LAMBDA, 9:30 pm, Lambda Center, 442-0189 (w)

THE COMING OUT PARTY, 8pm, Geary Theatre, 2130 L St.

GERANIM FESTIVAL, 10am - 3pm, Carmichael Park Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave., 332-1493

THE LARAMIE PROJECT, A PLAY ABOUT MATTHEW SHEPARD, 8:00 pm, Consumes River College, 691-7364

GSAC COFFEE OUT AT THE TRUE LOVE CAFE, 723-8644

ORCHESTRA BAOBAB, Palace of Fine Arts, SF, www.sjazz.org

2 **SUNDAY**

THE LARAMIE PROJECT, A PLAY ABOUT MATTHEW SHEPARD, 2:00 pm, Consumes River College, 691-7364

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR, 110am-6pm, Sunrise Mall, 676-2522

LWORD SACRAMENTO WOMYN'S SOCIAL GROUP, 6:45pm, 8322 Benjamin, Antelope, 821-2304 (w)

3 **MONDAY**

LAMBDA AWARDS, 6pm Doubletree Hotel, 442-0189

SUBMITTING CALENDAR ITEMS

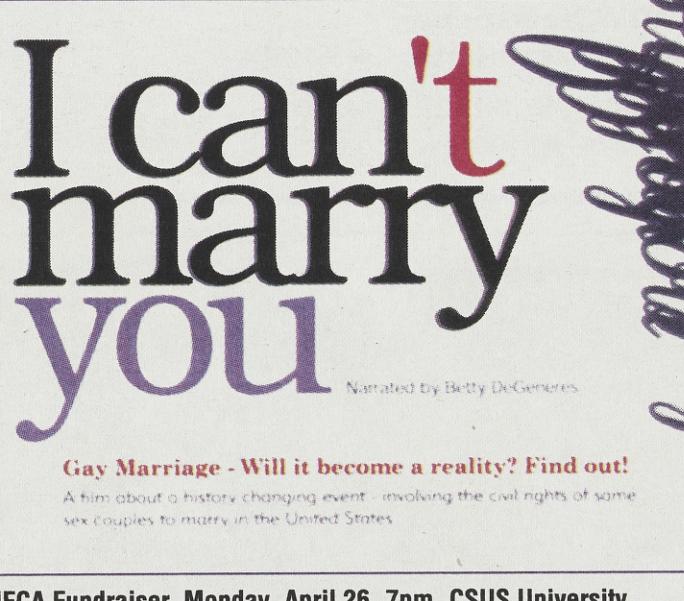
The Calendar is provided as a community service and is subject to editor's discretion and availability of space. Photos may be submitted; please mail prints with SASE or E-mail hi-resolution (300 dpi) JPEGs, TIFFs, or PDFs. Calendar items should be typewritten and received at least three weeks before publication. Event sponsors must be nonprofit organizations.

Please include: • Name of the event • Times and dates • Event location and address • Name of sponsoring organization • Phone numbers and URL's

SEND ITEMS TO: MGW Newspaper, 1103 T Street • Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 441-6422 E-mail: info@mgnews.com

MASTER EVENTS CALENDAR

Palm Springs International Film Festival, www.palm-springs.org	January 8-9, 2004
Sacramento Freedom Fair, 442-0185	June 5, 2004
San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 415-703-8650	June 2004
First Day of Summer	June 21, 2004
Los Angeles Pride Parade, www.lapride.org	June 22, 2004
San Francisco Pride Parade, 415-864-0831, spride.org	June 28-29, 2004
Sweden Gay Pride, www.visit-sweden.com	July 30-August 3, 2004
Montreal's GLBT Celebration, diversities.org	August 2004
Michigan Women's Music Festival, 231-297-4766	August 2004
Provincetown GLBT Family Week, 619-296-0199, familypride.org	August 2004
Sacramento Sierra Stampede, 978-4040	August 2004
Strawberry Music Festival strawberrymusic.com	August 28-September 1, 2004
Sacramento Rainbow Festival 2003, 448-7798	Labor Day Weekend
Folsom Street Fair San Francisco	September 2004
Chico Pride Festival, chicopride2001@hotmail.com	September 2004
Sacramento Valley AIDS Walk	September 2004
Palm Springs Short Film Festival, www.palm-springs.org	September 2004
Rosh Hashanah (begin at sundown)	September 2004
S.F. Castro Street Fair, 415-467-3354	October 2004
National Coming Out Day	October 2004
Breast Cancer Awareness Month	October 2004
Yom Kippur (begin at sundown)	October 2004
Interprise, www.interprise.org	October 2004
Out on Film-The Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, www.palm-springs.org	October 2004
Indigenous People's Day	October 11, 2004
Daylight Savings Time Ends	October 31, 2004
Halloween	November 5-6, 2004
Greater Palm Springs Pride, www.palm-springs.org	November 2, 2004
Election Day (Please Vote!)	November 2, 2004
Veteran's Day	November 11, 2004
California Domestic Partners Law Anniversary	November 16, 2002
Happy Thanksgiving	November 25, 2004
S.F. Harvey Milk and George Moscone Killed	November 27, 1978
Hanukkah (begin at sundown)	December 17, 2004
First Day of Winter	December 21, 2004
Merry Christmas!	December 25, 2004
Kwanzaa begins	December 26, 2004
New Year's Eve	December 31, 2004
New Year's Day	January 1, 2004



MECA Fundraiser. Monday, April 26, 7pm, CSUS University Union Ballroom, 6000 J St., www.marriagequalityca.org

ART GALLERIES

20TH STREET ART GALLERY

Mile Hermann, April 10-May 1; 911 20th St., 930-0500

APPEL GALLERY; 931 T St., 442-6014

BODY TRIBE FITNESS; 920 - 21st St., 444-2384

BRICK HOUSE STUDIOS; "Bang! Pop! Slam!" Ann Mottola, Reception Mar. 13, 6-9 pm, 2837 36th St., 457-2502

CA. PALACE OF THE LEGION OF HONOR; Art Deco Capitolism: Fortune Magazine in the 1930's, Jan. 17-J

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